

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 DODE-00 /016 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6807

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, MOCI, NI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: NIGERIAN ARMY HOUSING

REF: LAGOS 8734

1. ARMY BARRACKS PROJECT CURRENTLY STALLED WITH MOD
REALIZATION THAT IT HAS EXCEEDED AUTHORIZED FUNDING. IN
ITS ENTHUSIASM TO SPREAD LARGE NUMBER OF CANTONMENTS
AROUND COUNTRY AND APPLY SYSTEMS AND BUILDER RECOMMENDATIONS
OF C-E TEC STUDY, ARMY CHOSE TO DISREGARD FACT THAT TOTAL
ALLOTTED FOR PROJECT APPROXIMATES 500 MILLION DOLLARS. WITH
AVERAGE CANTONMENT COST ESTIMATE AT 36 MILLION DOLLARS, 60
CANTONMENTS WOULD TOTAL 2.2 BILLION DOLLARS WHILE 109
CANTONMENTS WOULD APPROXIMATE 4 BILLION DOLLARS. WHEN
PROJECT REACHED CRUCIAL DECISION JUNCTURE AS TO WHICH
CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE AWARDED WHICH JOBS, HEAD OF STATE
OBASANJO INDIGNANTLY EXPRESSED WONDER HOW COSTS HAD GOTTEN
SO FAR OUT OF HAND AND IMMEDIATELY CALLED FOR A TASK FORCE
TO RESTUDY THE WHOLE SITUATION.

2. TASK FORCE IS COMPOSED OF NIGERIAN MILITARY OFFICERS AND
SEVERAL FOREIGN TECHNICAL ADVISORS ASSIGNED TO MINISTRY AS FORM OF
FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AID. DELIBERATIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON SUCH ISSUES
AS REDUCING NUMBER OF CANTONMENTS, NUMBERS OF BUILDINGS PER POST,
AND STRUCTURAL/MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS OF BUILDINGS. MAKING A
PARALLEL REEXAMINATION OF ITS OWN, C-E TEC TEAM EXPECTS TO RETURN
TO LAGOS IN EARLY OCTOBER WITH ITS PROPOSALS. COMPANY HAS
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POINTED OUT URGENCY OF MAKING DECISIONS ASAP IN ORDER TO GET

PROJECT ROLLING. GRUMBLINGS IN ARMY RANKS ALREADY AUDIBLE RE
MOD FALLING BEHIND ITS TIMETALBE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR
TROOPS AND FAMILIES BEFORE 1979 DEADLINE.
EASUM

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